

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT DYSPRAXIA

The term dyspraxia refers to a specific type of disorder in the area of motor skill development. Dyspraxia often co-exists with other learning disabilities, such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dysgraphia.

Dyspraxia can affect a variety of basic functions required for daily living. It is often broken down into different categories - see below for a detailed explanation.

<p>IDEOMOTOR DYSPRAXIA Inability to complete single-step motor tasks such as combing hair and waving goodbye.</p>	<p>IDEATIONAL DYSPRAXIA Difficulty with multi-step tasks like brushing teeth, making a bed, putting clothes on in order, as well as buttoning and buckling</p>	<p>OROMOTOR DYSPRAXIA Difficulties coordinating the muscle movements needed to pronounce words.</p>	<p>CONSTRUCTIONAL DYSPRAXIA Problems with establishing spatial relationships - for instance being able to accurately position or move objects from one place to another.</p>
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DYSPRAXIA: WARNING SIGNS BY AGE

YOUNG CHILDREN	SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN	TEENAGERS & ADULTS
<p>learning to walk, jump and skip</p> <p>Trouble pronouncing words and being understood</p> <p>Slow to establish left- or right- handedness</p> <p>Frequently bumps into things</p> <p>Easily irritated by touch - clothing on skin, hair brushing, etc</p>	<p>Trouble with activities that require fine motor skills, like holding a pencil, buttoning, cutting with scissors</p> <p>Poor coordination - trouble with sports activities</p> <p>Slow or difficult-to- understand speech</p> <p>Speech difficulties can cause severe social awkwardness and unwillingness to attempt social interactions</p>	<p>Trouble with speech control - volume, pitch, articulation</p> <p>Difficulty writing</p> <p>Extreme sensitivity to light, touch, space, taste, smells</p> <p>Difficulty with personal grooming</p> <p>Difficulty driving</p> <p>Very clumsy</p>

individually structured exercises can result in improvement in gross and fine motor skills.

See the book **Developmental Dyspraxia** by Madeleine Portwood

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